

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 16004

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PINT, UR, FR
SUBJECT: FRENCH EMBASSY SIT-IN

1. WE ARE INFORMED IN STRICT CONFIDENCE BY THE FRENCH EMBASSY THAT ABOUT A WEEK AGO A SOVIET CITIZEN FORCED HIS WAY INTO THE EMBASSY BUILDING AND HAS REFUSED TO LEAVE AFTER BEING TOLD HE CANNOT BE SECRETLY GOT OUT OF THE USSR. AN EMBASSY DRIVER (SOVIET) SAW THE ENTRANCE AND THE SOVIET SECURITY FORCES IMMEDIATELY INCREASED THEIR GUARD AROUND THE EMBASSY TO SEVERAL TIMES THE USUAL NUMBER TO BLOCK ANY ATTEMPT AT ESCAPE WITHOUT THEIR KNOWLEDGE. THE SOVIETS HAVE ALSO HAD ONE OR TWO SECURITY CARS FOLLOWING ALL FRENCH EMBASSY CARS LEAVING THE EMBASSY COMPOUND AND HAVE BEEN CONSPICUOUSLY "PEEKING IN" THEM TO SEE IF THE INDIVIDUAL HAS BEEN HIDDEN IN ONE OF THEM.

2. THE FRENCH HAVE CONSULTED WITH US ABOUT THE SITUATION REGARDING OUR SIT-INS (PENTECOSTALISTS) AND INQUIRED ABOUT THE USUAL SOVIET REAATION TO SUCH CASES. ACCORDING TO THE FRENCH THEIR SIT-IN HAS NO POLITICAL AFFILIATION AND,ALTHOUGH CALM AND APPARENTLY RATIONAL, IS UNBALANCED, UNWILLING TO LEAVE, AND CONTENT TO STAY
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INDEFINITELY.

3. THE FRENCH CASE IS COMPLICATED BY SEVERAL FACTORS:

-- THEY ARE TRYING TO
KEEP THE CASE SECRET.

-- IN THE PAST THE FRENCH HAVE BEEN ABLE TO SECRETLY EXFILTRATE SIT-INS WHO HAVE NOT BEEN OBSERVED ENTERING BECAUSE THEIR COMPOUND IS NOT AS CLOSELY WATCHED AS IS OURS AND BECAUSE THEY HAVE BEEN ABLE TO KEEP THE SIT-INS CONCEALED FROM LOCAL SOVIET EMPLOYEES.

-- THERE ARE APPARENTLY SOME AREAS OF THE COMPOUND WHICH ARE NOT AS EASILY SURVEILLED AS ARE ALL PARTS OF THE U.S. COMPOUND, HENCE THE SOVIETS CANNOT BE SURE THAT A CAR CANNOT EXFILTRATE SIT-INS.

-- IN THE CURRENT CASE THE INDIVIDUAL IS BEING KEPT IN A PART OF THE EMBASSY AWAY FROM SOVIET EMPLOYEES.

4. THE FRENCH EMBASSY IS CLOSELY HOLDING THE FACT OF THE SIT-IN'S PRESENCE WHILE THEY DISCUSS THE CASE WITH MFA AND ATTEMPT TO CONVINCE THE INDIVIDUAL TO LEAVE. UNFORTUNATELY THE EXTREME SECURITY MEASURES OF THE KGB ARE NOT HELPING MATTERS. THE EMBASSY HAS PROTESTED THE "HARASSMENT" OF EMBASSY EMPLOYEES SEVERAL TIMES TO THE MFA, BUT WITHOUT GETTING A FAVORABLE HEARING OR ANY RELAXATION OF THE COVERAGE.

5. WE HOPE ADDRESSEES WILL RESPECT THE FRENCH WISH TO KEEP THE CASE FROM THE PUBLIC AND WILL HOLD THE CONFIDENTIAL

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ABOVE INFORMATION CLOSELY. TO OUR KNOWLEDGE THE FRENCH HAVE INFORMED ONLY THE U.S., UK AND FRG AMBASSADORS, ALTHOUGH THERE HAS BEEN AT LEAST ONE SLIP HERE BY A FRENCH EMBOFF WHICH COULD RESULT IN A BREAK OF THE STORY. IN ANY CASE IT CAN ONLY BE A MATTER OF TIME BEFORE THE STORY GETS OUT.
MATLOCK

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NNN

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